

Letter Progress Report #7

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Contract No. 1435-01-04-34396

Dear Barry,

This Letter Progress Report (LPR) provides a summary of activities undertaken on the MMS study entitled *World-Wide Survey of Dredging Impacts on Commercial and Recreational Fisheries and Analysis of Available Mitigation Measures to Protect and Preserve Resources* for the period October 18th 2005 through December 18th 2005.

Information is provided against the following headings.

- (1) status of deliverables;
- (2) budget status report summary;
- (3) problems encountered and resolution status; and
- (4) planned activities for the subsequent reporting period.

(1) Status of Deliverables

Task 1 (World-wide Literature Search):

The world-wide literature search has been completed and a summary report produced. This will be included in the final project report as an Annex.

Task 2 (Government Regulations Identification).

The identification of government regulations relevant to marine sand mining has been completed and will be fully reported in the final project report.

Task 4 (Site Visits to Fishing, Industry and Government Interests).

Site visits to representatives of the fishing industry, dredging industry and government interests have been undertaken previously and reported in earlier progress reports.

Task 6 (Fieldwork aboard fishing vessels).

As part of Emu Ltd on-going monitoring work on the HSB site, we have been to sea on 7 occasions with Mr Peter Storey, the key commercial fisherman in the HSB area. The outputs of conversations undertaken whilst carrying out monitoring surveys have been used to develop the HSB case study report (due to be issued as a draft in early January 2006).

Task 6 (Fieldwork aboard dredging vessels).

As per the project schedule, no additional work under this task heading has been undertaken during this reporting period. It is envisaged that John Petterson will carry some further work aboard dredging vessels in the Collier County region in the next 2-3 months.

Task 7 (Draft Report)

During this reporting period, we have developed a draft report on the Hastings Shingle Bank (HSB) marine aggregate case study site. A draft of this report has now been issued to John Petterson of IAI for review and comment. This initial draft has been developed following discussions held over the summer of 2005 between Emu staff, John Petterson and key figures within the UK marine aggregates industry. Emu Ltd's knowledge of this site through on-going site monitoring has also been used to develop this report.

It is intended that once completed and edited, this report will form part of the final report to be prepared as a key output of this study.

We intend to issue you with a copy of this draft report in the first week in January, once John Petterson has had a chance to review it.

(2) Budget Status Report Summary

Invoice #7 is attached. Please note that this again does not include any time incurred by IAI through this reporting period. John Petterson has informed us that Invoice No.8 (due February 18th 2006) will detail all the costs of IAI incurred since 18th August 2005 (last invoice to include IAI costs).

(3) Problems Encountered and Resolution Status

No problems have been encountered during this reporting period.

(4) Planned Activities

Task 7 (Draft and Final Manuscript)

We will continue working on the draft HSB report that is attached with this progress report. We will include information on historic dredging activity at this site plus further information on conflicts between the fishermen and the dredging industry. Most importantly, we will complete the section of the report that discusses the success and implications of mitigation measures that have been adopted at this site since dredging began in 1989.

We look forward to your review of this Letter Progress Report. Please let me know if additional information or clarification is required.

Yours Sincerely,

Bruce Tomlinson, Ph.D.
Program Manager

cc: Sharon Teger (CO, MMS Headquarters)